

## II. ANNEXATION LAW

Since the activity of annexation will be governed and conditioned by the State laws controlling such activity, it is best at this point to introduce the three annexation methods available to Rockingham and point out the salient features of each. Only such points as condition the mechanics of this study will be enumerated.

### Annexation by Petition (G.S. 160-342)

The governing board of any municipality may annex by ordinance any area contiguous to its boundaries upon presentation to the governing board of a petition signed by the owners of all the real property located in such area. The petition shall be signed by each owner of real property in the area and shall contain the address of each such owner.

Annexation by petition is a procedure which should be used by a municipality in the routine operation of government. It is most useful when annexing one or two properties at a time. The City should promote annexation by petition whenever any requests for the extension of municipal services or utilities are made. In this manner the accretion of properties to the City is made in small increments and services may be provided by small increments in the budget. Under annexation by petition a municipality is obligated to provide services and improvements, but these are not mandatory before the fact and no time table is established by law. Annexation by this technique is not feasible for larger areas because property ownership is broken into so many small lots that securing one hundred percent signature is impossible.

### Annexation Laws of 1959 for Cities of 5,000 or More (G.S. 160, Article 36, Part III)

The municipality initiating annexation shall make plans for the extension of services into the area proposed to be annexed and shall, prior to the public hearing described below, prepare a report containing:

1. Maps of the municipality and adjacent territory showing the following information:
  - A. The present and proposed boundaries of the municipality.
  - B. The present major trunk water mains and sewer interceptors and outfalls, and the proposed extensions of such mains and outfalls.
  - C. The general land use pattern in the area to be annexed.